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Blueprint for Prosperity: DWD Secretary Announces Intent to Award \$2.1 Million for Innovative School-to-Work Models Around Wisconsin

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today announced DWD's intent to award 30 grants totaling \$2.1 million to develop or expand creative programs that prepare high school pupils for the workforce or post-secondary education through training in high-demand fields. The grants cover training for up to 949 high school pupils and could involve employment at up to 153 employers.

The investment is part of Governor Scott Walker's *Blueprint for Prosperity*, a comprehensive agenda to provide tax relief and invest in worker training to move Wisconsin along a path to prosperity. The plan includes \$35.4 million to expand the Wisconsin Fast Forward worker training program into three key areas, including:

- Increasing industry-recognized certifications in high-demand fields for high school students.
- Reducing wait lists in high-demand fields at Wisconsin technical colleges.
- Enhancing employment opportunities for workers with disabilities.

"Transforming education is a core part of my administration's focus," said Governor Scott Walker. "The *Blueprint for Prosperity* will increase opportunities for hundreds of high school students across Wisconsin to pursue training in high-demand fields like manufacturing, information technology, and construction. We will continue to prioritize efforts that prepare students for family-supporting jobs here in Wisconsin."

"Thanks to Governor Walker's vision, high school pupils will have an opportunity to learn new skills that are in demand by employers, and earn a semester or more of technical college credit while still in high school," Secretary Newson said. "The experience translates directly to future success in the classroom or on the shop floor. These are the kinds of innovative collaborations that effectively address Wisconsin's skills gap and move our state forward."

DWD worked with the state Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to develop grant criteria and issue a grant program announcement (GPA) in March 2014 for up to \$1.5 million in potential awards. Applications had to include at least one business or business organization in collaboration with school districts, educational partners, and/or technical colleges.

"These collaborations between Wisconsin businesses and their local schools will strengthen career and technical education in our state, helping us move toward the goal of every student graduating ready for college and career," State Superintendent Tony Evers said. "The Department of Public Instruction is happy to be part of this valuable program."

Examples of programs that DWD sought from applicants include:

- Technical college/high school dual credit academies;
- Workplace-based or high-school-based transcribed credit and industry-recognized certifications that are part of an embedded diploma;
- Work-based learning programs;
- Pre-apprenticeship models that allow for seamless transition into Wisconsin Apprenticeship; or
- Other skilled employment opportunities.

DWD's Office of Skills Development is administering the grant program. The school-to-work programs will kick off during the 2014-15 academic year.

(more)

2014 Wisconsin Fast Forward-Blueprint for Prosperity High School Pupil Grant Awards		
Name of Applicant	County	Intent to Award
South Central Workforce Development Board	Dane, Columbia, Jefferson, Marquette, Dodge, Sauk	\$150,000
Northcentral Technical College	Marathon, Clark, Price, Shawano, Taylor, Langlade, Lincoln	\$149,641
Gateway Technical College	Racine, Kenosha	\$149,512
Oneida County Economic Development Corporation	Oneida	\$132,385
Trace-A-Matic Corporation	Waukesha	\$130,000
Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board	Milwaukee	\$129,800
Bruno Independent Living Aids, Inc.	Waukesha, Ozaukee	\$128,344
WRTP / Big Step	Milwaukee	\$122,751
CL&D Graphics	Waukesha	\$120,100
Hudson School District	St. Croix, Pierce, La Crosse	\$108,497
Mishicot School District	Manitowoc, Sheboygan	\$87,384
GPS Education Partners	Waukesha	\$85,027
CESA 2	Dane, Jefferson	\$80,800
Tomah Area School District	Monroe	\$77,890
UW Hospital and Clinics Authority	Dane	\$60,287
CESA 6 (IT)	Outagamie, Winnebago, Calumet	\$60,000
Door Kewaunee Business and Education Partnership	Door, Kewaunee	\$57,575
CESA 6 (Construction)	Walworth, Monroe, Racine, Waukesha, Fond du Lac, Outagamie, La Crosse	\$57,150
Stevens Point Area Senior High School	Portage, Marathon	\$33,110
Lakeshore Technical College (CNA)	Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Calumet	\$32,064
Lakeview Regional Technical Academy	Kewaunee	\$28,863
School District of New Berlin	Waukesha	\$27,990
School District of West Salem	La Crosse	\$20,000
Lakeshore Technical College (Hospitality)	Manitowoc, Sheboygan	\$19,444
Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce	Winnebago, Outagamie	\$18,966
Fox Valley Technical College	Waupaca, Waushara	\$15,973
Lakeshore Technical College (Safety)	Manitowoc, Sheboygan	\$13,629
Precision Plus, Inc.	Walworth	\$10,379
Fond du Lac Area Association of Commerce	Fond du Lac, Dodge	\$9,638
New Holstein High School	Calumet, Fond du Lac	\$9,040
TOTAL		\$2,126,239

For more information: A summary of each grant award is available [online](#).

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